



Wisconsin **Employee Suggestion Program**

State of Wisconsin:
Scott McCallum, Governor
Department of Employment Relations:
Peter D. Fox, Secretary

Employee Suggestion Board:
James Behrend, Chair
Roger Cross, Member
Ken Berg, Member

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- November 9, 2001

Six state employees are being honored by the Department of Employment Relations and the State Employee Suggestion Board for their efforts in reducing costs and improving efficiencies in state government, Secretary Peter D. Fox announced today.

Additionally, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation will receive special recognition because a large number of their employees were leaders in contributing to the Wisconsin Employee Suggestion Program.

The six employees are:

◆ **INDIVIDUAL SUGGESTER OF THE YEAR** (tie--shared by 3 employees)

Carolyn Hackler (Dept. of Transportation, Div. of Motor Vehicles), a previous winner of Individual Suggester of the Year awards in 1998 and 1999, has continued to make suggestions for improvements in her workplace. During fiscal year 2000-01, Ms. Hackler made four successful suggestions: highlight DOT upper management in the department bulletin, develop a manual of terminology for a new violation management system, use flowcharts in training manuals, and place carpet runners on the heavily-traveled first floor in the Hill Farms State Transportation Building to prevent slips and falls.

Deborah Anderson (Dept. of Health & Family Services/Southern Wisconsin Center) suggested purchasing sodium chloride 0.9% (normal saline) in bulk rather than in smaller amounts. Her suggestion has resulted in annual savings of \$7,500, or \$37,500 over a five-year period.

Gary Dikkers (Dept. of Transportation, Div. of Transportation Infrastructure Development) successfully suggested that DOT encourage its employees to use free Internet services to look up telephone numbers instead of calling directory assistance, which charges \$0.95 per call. Based on telephone bill records, it was determined that this suggestion saved DOT \$5,000 per year or \$25,000 over five years.

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◆ **GROUP SUGGESTION OF THE YEAR**

Paul Linderholm and **Richard Ehlert** (Dept. of Transportation, Div. of Motor Vehicles) created a plastic template for blind and sight-disadvantaged citizens who are unable to see where to sign for a DOT-issued state identification card.

◆ **AGENCY COORDINATOR OF THE YEAR**

Ellen Hario (Dept. of Transportation, Div. of Motor Vehicles) is being recognized for her efforts in coordinating and promoting the Wisconsin Employee Suggestion Program at her agency's division level, which resulted in three division employees receiving special annual awards.

A ceremony honoring the recipients will be held at 11 a.m. on November 14, 2001, in the Governor's Conference Room in the State Capitol.

The Wisconsin Employee Suggestion Program encourages state employees to become an agent for change, initiating ideas on ways to improve services, enhance efficiency, and save money for the state. This program is a way not only to stimulate suggestions, but also to recognize employees for their contributions.

For further information, contact the statewide program coordinator, Robert Toomey, at the Department of Employment Relations, by telephone (608) 266-0664, e-mail Robert.Toomey@der.state.wi.us, or fax (608) 267-1006.

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